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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/870,522	06/01/2001	Norihiro Imamura	KIX0149-US	1361
28970	7590	04/07/2006	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP			THOMAS, BRANDI N	
1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD			ART UNIT	
MCLEAN, VA 22102			PAPER NUMBER	
			2873	

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/870,522	Applicant(s) IMAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Brandi N. Thomas	Art Unit 2873	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Detailed Action</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi et al. (5023422) in view of Brown (4247493).

Regarding claim 1, Taniguchi et al. discloses, in figures 1 and 11, a method of making a lens array (4) comprising the steps of: forming a resin-molded piece which includes a plurality of lenses (8) each having a convex lens surface (col. 4, lines 47-49), and a holder portion (9) for holding the plurality of lenses (8) but does not specifically disclose applying a coating to the holder portion so as to surround said each lens surface at a predetermined spacing from an outer periphery of the lens surface; melting the applied coating for causing the melted coating to spread onto the outer periphery of the lens surface; melting the applied coating; and solidifying the melted coating. Brown discloses applying a coating to the holder portion so as to surround said each lens surface; melting the applied coating for causing the melted coating to spread onto the outer periphery of the lens surface; and solidifying the melted coating (col. 2, line 65-68, col. 3, lines 3-10, and col. 4, lines 16-19) but does not specifically disclose applying the coating to surround the lens surface at a predetermined spacing from an outer periphery of the lens surface. However it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the coating to surround the lens surface at a predetermined spacing

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from an outer periphery of the lens surface for the purpose of enabling the coating to protrude over the sides of the lens. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the device of Taniguchi et al. with the coating of Brown for the purpose of molding a lens array (col. 2, line 65-68, col. 3, lines 3-10, and col. 4, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 2, Brown discloses a method of making a lens array (4), wherein the plurality of lenses (8) are integral with the holder portion (9) (col. 4, lines 53-55).

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Brown discloses a method of making a lens array (4) but does not specifically disclose the coating comprising solid ink. It would have been obvious to use solid ink, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use (In re Leshin, 125 USPQ). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use solid ink for the purpose of its transparency.

Regarding claim 5, Taniguchi et al. discloses, in figures 1 and 11, a method of making a lens array (4), further comprising the step of forming a plurality of recesses (not labeled, the portion of the holder located below the lenses (8)) in the holder portion (9) for partitioning the plurality of lenses (8) (figure 1).

Regarding claim 6, Taniguchi et al. discloses, in figures 1 and 11, a method of making a lens array (4), further comprising the step of forming a light-shielding layer (11) on wall surfaces defining the plurality of recesses (not labeled, the portion of the holder located below the lenses (8)) (col. 4, lines 61-63).

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Regarding claim 7, Taniguchi et al. discloses, in figures 1 and 11, a method of making a lens array (4), further comprising the step of dividing the resin-molded piece into a plurality of individual lens array (figure 11).

3. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown (4247493).

Regarding claim 8, Brown discloses a method of performing light shielding treatment for a transparent member having a flat surface at least partially and a projection rising in the flat surface, the method comprising the steps of: applying a black material to the flat surface as to the holder portion so as to surround said each lens surface; melting the applied coating; and solidifying the melted coating (col. 2, line 65-68, col. 3, lines 3-10, and col. 4, lines 16-19) but does not specifically disclose applying the coating to surround the lens surface at a predetermined spacing from an outer periphery of the lens surface. However it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the coating to surround the lens surface at a predetermined spacing from an outer periphery of the lens surface for the purpose of enabling the coating to protrude over the sides of the lens.

Regarding claim 9, Brown discloses a method of performing light shielding treatment for a transparent member having a flat surface at least partially and a projection rising in the flat surface, wherein the applied black material constitutes a closed loop which surrounds the projection (col. 3, lines 3-10).

Regarding claim 10, Brown discloses a method of performing light shielding treatment for a transparent member having a flat surface at least partially and a projection rising in the flat

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surface, wherein the applied black material constitutes a plurality of arc segments spaced from each other (col. 2, lines 65-68).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 11 is allowed.

5. The prior art taken either singularly or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of the independent claim(s), in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in claim(s) 11, wherein the claimed invention comprises a lens array including a first and a second light-shielding layer which are made of different materials and the second light-shielding layer being formed at the holder portion so as to surround the first light-shielding layer, as claimed.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Brown discloses wherein the melted coating spreads onto the outer periphery of the lens surface (col. 3, lines 3-10) and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the coating to whatever distance that would apply.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandi N. Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-2341. The examiner can normally be reached on 7- 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Mack can be reached on 571-272-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BNT

BNT
March 27, 2006


RICKY MACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER